Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the title of the invention at page 1, lines 1 through 2 of the English-language translation of the specification with the following amended title:

METHODS ~~OF TREATING~~ FOR EXAMINATION FOR ALLERGIC DISEASES, AND DRUGS FOR TREATING ALLERGIC DISEASES ~~AND THERAPEUTIC AGENTS FOR TREATING SAME~~

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, lines 24 through 29 of the English-language translation of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

The present inventors performed extensive analyses to achieve the above-mentioned objectives. ~~Eosinophils commonly serve~~ Peripheral blood eosinophil count commonly serves as typical clinical indicators of atopic dermatitis. Thus, the present inventors considered that if a gene whose expression level changes with eosinophil levels could be isolated, it could lead to the isolation of a gene directly involved in atopic dermatitis.

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, line 30 through page 4, line 15 of the English-language translation of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

The present inventors first attempted to identify a gene whose expression level differs with a specific allergic disease. Differential expression comparative analysis using a gene chip was carried out on genes expressed in the peripheral blood eosinophils of healthy subjects, and three groups of atopic dermatitis patients with various pathological conditions (light, severe and steroid sensitive, and severe and steroid resistant). Genes showing a greater than 3-fold variation were sorted, and the TR3 gene was selected from among approximately 12,000 A-chip genes, wherein the chip was mainly loaded with known genes. Two cases of eosinophil RNA from each group, including the healthy subjects, were applied to the gene chip, and expression comparison between two groups was carried out by comparing gene expression in four combinations of two cases from each group. Comparison of expression between healthy subjects and subjects with severe symptoms (steroid sensitive) showed that TR3 expression varied by more than three-fold (enhanced in severe symptoms) in all four combinations. To confirm those observations, RT-

PCR was carried out on panels of peripheral blood eosinophils having a larger number of patients from healthy subjects and atopic dermatitis patients. These results showed that TR3 expression in atopic dermatitis patients was enhanced as compared to that in healthy subjects, thus reproducing the results obtained using the gene chip.

Please replace the paragraph at page 35, lines 4 through 14 of the English-language translation of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

In a preferred embodiment of a method of the present invention, apoptosis is induced by contacting cells with a compound, or with a prostaglandin comprising a cyclopentenone structure, where these can be obtained by a screening method of this invention. The cells in a method of this invention are preferably eosinophils. The number of peripheral blood eosinophils is known to decrease in the remission stage in atopic dermatitis patients. Therefore, an allergic disease may be treated by specifically leading eosinophils to cell death, utilizing the method of the present invention. Thus, the present method is expected to lead to the development of novel methods for treating allergic disease.

Please replace the "Sequence Listing" filed on July 1, 2003 (sheets 1/23 through 23/23) with the Substitute "Sequence Listing" (sheets 1/15 through 15/15) comprising SEQ ID NOS: 1-14 filed concurrently herewith.